

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 952 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
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NATO 23 FEB

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDAK, EINV, PFOR, PGOV, NL

SUBJ: THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR: DUTCH CONCERNS

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, THE LOCKHEED DISCLOSURES HAVE GENERATED EXTENSIVE LOCAL COMMENT AND CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION. THEY HAVE ALSO CAUSED DEEP CONCERN THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND ITS INSTITUTIONS COULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED BY PROCEEDINGS IN WASHINGTON ESSENTIALLY BEYOND DUTCH CONTROL. WE ARE TRANSMITTING BELOW THE FULL TEXT OF BRIEF BUT PUNGENT EDITORIAL IN THE FEB 20 ISSUE OF THE HIGHLY RESPECTED AND THOUGHTFUL NEWSPAPER "NRC HANDELSBLAD." WHICH CAPTURES THE FLAVOR OF THE GROWING UNEASE TO WHICH THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR HAS GIVEN RISE AND OF THE FRUSTRATION ARISING FROM THE APPARENT INABILITY OF THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES SO FAR TO GET EVEN AN APPARENT HANDLE ON THIS AFFAIR.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT WASHING-
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TON AT PRESENT MISUNDERSTAND EUROPEAN RELATIONS. THIS IS CON-

FIRMED BY THE DECISION OF THE SENATE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE NOT TO MENTION FOR THE TIME BEING ANY MORE NAMES OF WITNESSES AND PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED IN THE AIRCRAFT TRANSACTIONS.

FOR WEEKS THE SENATE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN HEARING VARIOUS WITNESSES WHO IN THE COURSE OF THEIR STATEMENTS HAVE UTTERED AN ALARMING SERIES OF ACCUSATIONS. THIS HAS CAUSED GREAT UNREST IN THE NETHERLANDS, JAPAN AND WESTERN GERMANY. PUBLIC OPINION HAS BECOME CONFUSED, POLITICAL CONTRASTS HAVE SHARPENED, AND IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WHICH IS PRESENTLY BADLY SHAKEN.

HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL IN THE STAGE IN WHICH THE FIRST CONVINCING PROOFS WILL HAVE TO BE PRODUCED. SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HOLLAND, HAVE TAKEN THE CHARGES VERY SERIOUSLY AND HAVE OPENED THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION. THE SENATE COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN TREASURY SECRETARY, HOWEVER, HAVE CHOSEN THIS POINT TO MAKE DECLARATIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY WILL NO LONGER COOPERATE.

THIS IS AN UNTENABLE STANDPOINT. THE COMPLICATIONS CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT, AND THE POSSIBLE CORRUPTION THAT WENT WITH IT, RESULT FROM THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN SOCIETIES ARE VERY CLOSELY INTERTWINED.

IN THIS INTERDEPENDENCE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE IS NOT JUST ANY KIND OF PARTY WHICH CAN WITHDRAW THE MOMENT IT WANTS TO, UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE CHAOS IT IS LEAVING BEHIND. THE RELATIONSHIP ENTAILS A MORAL OBLIGATION. THAT MEANS THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE AND OTHER AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CANNOT STOP HALFWAY, BUT HAVE TO KEEP ASSISTING THE EUROPEAN INVESTIGATION COMMITTEES SO THAT THERE WILL AGAIN BE A SITUATION IN WHICH GUILT AND INNOCENCE WILL BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED. END QUOTE.
BROWN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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